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x159 After a month or two Melangkai died. [He stopped. I asked how.] They both died from an evil spirit. When father was a young man he hunted wild pigs. He found a tuber that had only one leaf but was as [271] thick as his thigh. He went back to his friends. They split it and divided it to quench their thirst. That evening they came home. Father didn't think of it any more until he was grown and had children. When he divined for the sick children, he forgot to include Lonmani-Silaka [name of the spirit in the place where he had found the tuber]. If he had remembered it those two children would not have died. They both died before he remembered it. Fankalieta and Manifani said to father that he had probably seen something bad [potent] and had forgotten it, since two of his children died. So father thought hard until he remembered the tuber. Fankalieta and Manifani divined with a chicken, and sure enough the chicken's head hit Lonmani-Silaka's stone.

February 14, 1939

[What about the two older siblings in relation to you?] When I was six or seven, my brother Melangkai was sick. Mother cooked rice for him, put a little on the end of the spoon, and fed it to him. He didn't eat the rice; he just bit the end of the spoon. I said, "Mother, you are feeding my brother rice but he is not eating it; he is biting the end of the spoon." Melangkai said, "No, I am eating the rice, not the spoon." Fankalieta brought three rats for Melangkai to eat. Melangkai just wanted to eat their bellies, but that day his words had disappeared. He just said, "Mother, rats. Mother, rats." Mother didn't hear or understand. So he pointed to mother's belly and said, "Mother, belly, rats. Mother, belly, rats." Then Fankalieta understood and said to give him the bellies of the rats. Mother told him I had already eaten them, so Fankalieta sent Endirini to get some others in his house. Then mother roasted rat bellies and gave them to him, but he didn't eat them properly. He just put them between his upper teeth and lip. Then his neck went limp and he fell back. He was about to die. He lay on the floor. Then he came to and said, "Mother, mother, people are pulling me and I want to return, but you take good care of my younger brothers." Then he died and didn't revive.

x159 Fankalieta said, "Your two sons are dead in successive months. Your 751 eldest said to guard the two young ones well. So now we must remember all and divine. They divined and hit the tuber [see end of preceding day's story]. Then father bought medicine against that evil spirit. He smeared it on the joints at both ends of a length of bamboo and burned the bamboo. Some he placed on small sticks and set the sticks

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one in each corner of the room and one in the center. He did this for six days and we didn't get sick any more. The evil spirit didn't come. [159x 751]

[What did he remember first about Melangkai?] It was before Senmani was born. I was about three. Melangkai was about twelve and Kupaipada was about six or seven. We were living in Puorkajvi at the time. Melangkai made a spirit boat carving and stood it in a tree. He said he was going to hunt meat to feed it. He got one small mouse and roasted it. The heart he fed to the carving and the haunches [the best part] he gave me. That is what I remember. [778]

When Kupaipada had a bad ear, he didn't want to eat corn or tubers. He just wanted bananas [infant's food]. Then he said, "Father, there is much food, but this is all I want." So father went to Bakudatang and cut a bunch of bananas. When I saw them, I cried because I wanted some too. Kupaipada was angry and said, "Why do you want my bananas? I don't eat other foods." He was angry and hit me. I cried hard. Mother came and I told her that because I wanted just one banana, her child had hit me. Then mother was angry and said, "Why do you hit your younger sibling? You are all my children. He is still small. You are the elder. You can eat these." She took two fruits and put them on top of the corn to cook and gave them to me. [262]

Kupaipada did not finish the bananas. He had finished one bunch but had eaten only two or three from another when he was very sick and didn't talk any more. He said, "Mother, I am cold." So mother [with whom Rilpada was still sleeping at the age of six or seven] put me in back of her and took Kupaipada in her arms. They didn't sleep until almost dawn. Then Kupaipada began to groan [literally, "make a noise in his heart"]. After a while he stopped. Mother thought he was sleeping soundly and went off to sleep herself. When we awoke in the early morning, she put her hand on Kupaipada. He was already cold, dead. Mother cried. Manifani heard her, came, and for Kupaipada's death feast killed a large pig that mother was raising. He continued to stand there in the pen until father came down and gave him a small pig that we had in the house. Then mother came down and said, "It is also your child who died [i.e., his nephew]. Because he is under your jurisdiction [Manifani was chief at that time] and because you are his Male House, we shall have to pay you something if you stand there. Let us divine to discover whether the paternal or maternal ancestors are responsible for his death. If my kin are guilty we shall pay a fine to his father's kin. If his father's kin are guilty, we shall receive a fine." But they forgot to divine until after Melangkai died.

After my two brothers died there were just I and Senmani. Then

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[Long pause. Again he said that he had forgotten much. I suggested that he listen to the thoughts that traveled through his head.]

When I was still small my hair was reddish. Falanata was staying with us. When we fought she called me redhead. I answered by calling her Faleata. [Play on the name of Falanata; *faleata* is the name of a wild plant used as food.] She called me Fankai [a dog's name, a play on his name, Fantan]. We fought; she was bigger than I and clamped her hand over my mouth and hit me. [Pause.]

One time when I was about twelve years old, my father took me to Kelaisi. We went because Atakalieta had come to ask for a pig. When we delivered the pig, he killed a chicken for us and we ate it, but the two legs we saved for a very old woman, grandmother of my mother, called Koleti. We took them to her in Kaminwati. She cooked rice and fed us. She gave us a bunch of bananas and a full basket of areca nuts. We went back to Kelaisi and slept there overnight, and the next day we came home here to Atimelang.

When I was that old I could not go to Makangfokung because if I went there I would die. [He paused to make me ask why.] My father and uncle had begotten many boys there, but they all died. Only the girls lived. Kaloi, the spirit of our lineage house, had killed them; it said that all the male children belonged to it. My two brothers had already died, so my mother and father thought I would die too. Father went to Kelaisi to buy a medicine. He paid a piece of cloth and a moko for it. When he brought it home he killed a pig, a big one, to feed the medicine. After that father could go to Makangfokung, and when I was older I could too. Father went to Makangfokung, put the medicine on a stone, and threw the stone in the house. Then a snake rose halfway from the ground. My father placed some of the medicine on a little stone and held it in front of the snake, and the snake died. Father didn't hit it; it just died. After he had this medicine father could kill the evil spirits that lived in trees and other places. He could burn off spirit abodes, and everything would dry up there. The trees would die and dry up, and with them all the taboo strings. [Fantan had had several "taboo strings" extracted from under his sternum that year.] Manifula is a spirit abode. I placed the medicine there and burned it over. I went up and there were many dead snakes. [How long since you have cut this garden at Manifula? He spoke as though it were in the present.] I haven't cut that place in about six years. It was while father was still alive. He died less than a year after I cut the Manifula garden.